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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PM-03 L-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01 H-01 AEC-05 USIA-04 PRS-01

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NEA-06 IO-03 OIC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /085 W
---------- 078533
P R 111835Z OCT 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2085
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4868

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DUTCH OPENING STATEMENT

VIENNA FOR US MBFR DELEGATION

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP PROVISIONALLY APPROVED DUTCH OPENING STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 10. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. TO APPRAISE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS GENERALLY RATHER DIFFICULT FOR WANT OF A PROPER PERSPECTIVE IN TIME. TODAY, HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKING THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH WE ARE NOW EMBARKING. THE VERY FACT THAT IT HAS BECOME POSSIBLE FOR US TO MEET HERE IN VIENNA IS EVIDENCE OF THE MARKED CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL CLIMATE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS; ACTUALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY STATES WITH ARMED
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FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE ARE GOING TO MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THEIR FORCES WITH THE AIM OF STRENGTHENING THE BASIS ON WHICH TO ES-TABLISH NEW, MORE STABLE AND SECURE RELATIONS BETWEEN EACH

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OTHER. MY GOVERNMENT WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR SATISFACTION WHAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND FEEL THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IN THE PURSUIT OF GREATER DETENTE BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEMS IN EUROPE.

2. INDEED WE FEEL THAT THE PRESENT CONDITIONS WARRANT NEGOTIATIONS ON CONCRETE MEASURES TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IN THE FIRST PLACE THE ACCUMULATION OF MANPOWER AND ARMAMENTS IN THE WORLD AT LARGE, AND ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, IS SUCH THAT IN GOOD REASON A LOWERING OF THIS LEVEL WOULD BY ITSELF ALREADY CONTRIBUTE TO A DECREASE OF TENSION. MOREOVER THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLES AND THOSE OF THE THIRD WORLD FOR A BETTER LIFE MAKE IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE SPARE NO EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD-WIDE PEACEFUL RELATIONS THROUGH MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. FURTHERMORE IT CAN HARDLY BE DENIED THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE A SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO STRIVE FOR MORE STABLE AND SECURE CONDITIONS IN THEIR PART OF THE WORLD, AS IN THIS CENTURY ALONE EUROPE HAS TWICE BEEN THE FOCAL POINT OF A GENERAL CONFLAGRATION.

3. FROM THESE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS IT WILL BE CLEAR, I TRUST, THAT MY GOVERNMENT REGARD AS THE AIM OF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS NOT SO MUCH THE REDUCTION OF EXISTING FORCE LEVELS IN EUROPE BY THEMSELVES; RATHER THEY CONSIDER EVENTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES, IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF CONTINUING PROGRESS IN DETENTE, AS A (BEGIN UNDERLINE) MEANS (END UNDERLINE) TO ARRIVE BOTH AT A MORE STABLE MILITARY BALANCE AND ALSO AT MORE SATISFACTORY POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN EUROPE, WHERE BARRIERS BETWEEN PEOPLES, AS WELL AS THEIR FORCE LEVELS ARE LOWER, BUT MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND THE CHANCES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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COLLABORATION WILL BE HIGHER.

4. I AM SURE THAT THE VIEW IS WIDELY SHARED THAT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY ARE INTERRELATED. FOR IT CANNOT BE MERE COINCIDENCE, THAT ALL THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED HERE ARE ALSO TAKING PART IN THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE WHICH IS NOW IN ITS SECOND PHASE AT GENEVA. IN OUR VIEW THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ONE AND SAME POLITICAL WILL TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS STIMULATES OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS IN THIS FORUM MORE SPECIFICALLY THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY AMONG

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THE STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EXISTING MILI-
TARY CONFRONTATION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AT
GENEVA THE RATHER MORE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF OVERALL
RELATIONSHIPS IN EUROPE ARE BEING ADDRESSED.

5. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND MY GOVERNMENT ENTER THESE
NEGOTIATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF IDEAS ON WHAT WE HOPE
TO ACHIEVE. IT WILL BE OUR PRIMARY CONCERN THAT
AT THE END OF THE ROAD WE WILL ARRIVE AT A SITUA-
TION IN WHICH THE SECURITY FOR ANY OF THE PARTIES
CONCERNED WILL BE UNDIMINISHED AT A LOWER LEVEL OF
FORCES.

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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LIMDIS

6. WITH THIS GENERAL GOAL CONSTANTLY IN MIND WE
WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE IT BY VARIOUS MEASURES WHICH
TAKEN TOGETHER WILL PRODUCE A BALANCED OUTCOME, IN
WHICH ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE EXISTING DIS-
PARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIANCES IN GEOGRAPHY,
MANPOWER, EQUIPMENT AND DISPOSITION OF FORCES.

7. AS THE CONCENTRATION OF FORCES IS MOST CONSPICU-
OUS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WE CONSIDER THAT THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS SHOULD BE RELATED TO FORCES LOCATED IN THIS
AREA.

8. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS
IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO LIMIT OUR ATTENTION TO
GROUND FORCES. THE PROBLEMS WE WILL BE FACED WITH

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ARE ALREADY VERY COMPLICATED AND WE SHOULD BE CARE-
FUL NOT TO BURDEN THESE FIRST NEGOTIATIONS UNDULY
BY TAKING ON MORE THAN WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT
TO HANDLE.

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9. IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF PRUDENCE WE FEEL THAT WE
SHOULD NOT SEEK TO ACHIEVE TOO MUCH AT THE SAME
TIME. RATHER WE SHOULD PROCEED IN A STEP BY STEP
APPROACH WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR A GRADUAL BUILD-UP
OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. SUCH A PHASED APPROACH SEEMS
THE MOST REALISTIC WAY IN WHICH TO TACKLE THE
VARIOUS PROBLEMS.

10. IF OUR OUTCOME IS INDEED TO BE BALANCED AND
OUR SECURITY IS TO REMAIN UNDIMINISHED, WE HAVE TO
REALIZE THAT REDUCTION MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE CON-
SIDERED IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH COLLATERAL MEA-
SURES. MY GOVERNMENT REGARD MEASURES CONCERN-
ING VERIFICATION, NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND STABILIZA-
TION AS ESSENTIAL COMPLEMENTS TO REDUCTIONS THEM-
SELVES, WHICH ALL TAKEN TOGETHER WILL HAVE TO ACHIEVE
THE DESIRED RESULT OF GREATER STABILITY AND INCREASED
CONFIDENCE. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THIS TO IMPLY THAT
THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR OUTCOME NEED NOT STAND
IN THE WAY OF EFFORTS TOWARDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN
EUROPE.

11.NOW I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD
OF US. THE SUBJECT MATTER IS COMPLICATED AND WE HAVE
HARDLY AN PRECEDENTS TO DRAW ON. ON THE OTHER
HAND, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE NATIONS HERE ASSEMBLED, OWE IT TO OUR PEOPLES
AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL TO GRASP THIS UNIQUE OPPOR-
TUNITY OF MAKING A POSITIVE AND CONCRETE CONTRIBUTION
TO ESTABLISHING A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
PARTICIPATING STATES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL
BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE RESULTS IF THE SPIRIT WHICH
BROUGHT US TOGETHER WILL BE MAINTAINED IN THE COURSE
OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. END TEXT.
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